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Message Text

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60
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02

USIA-06 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 CEA-01

AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 FEA-01 DODE-00 H-02

INT-05 NSC-05 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 /135 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3025
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UNCTAD
SUBJ: UNCTAD TDB: TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY

REF: GENEVA 8120

1. SUMMARY: IN PLENARY SESSION OF UNCTAD TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD, OCTOBER 18, GROUP B COUNTRIES MADE STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO COMMENTS MADE BY CHIEF OF UNCTAD'S TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY DIVISION PATEL, DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH 6 OF REFTEL. GROUP B STATEMENT STRESSED THAT ALL ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY PATEL BE BASED ON A WORK PROGRAM APPROVED BY UNCTAD MEMBERSHIP. STATEMENTS WERE ALSO MADE BY VENEZUELA, INDONESIA, AND NIGERIA EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR PATEL, WHO, IN THEIR VIEW, IS AUTHORIZED BY UNCTAD AND UNGA RESOLUTIONS TO ESTABLISH REGIONAL AND SECTORAL TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY CENTERS. TDB PRESIDENT CLOSED THE DEBATE ON THIS AGENDA ITEM AFTER PATEL PROMISED THAT THE SECRETARIAT WILL PROVIDE MEMBERS IN FULLEST DETAIL WITH INFORMATION ON HOW HE
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PLANS TO IMPLEMENT UNCTAD AND UNGA DECISIONS IN CO-

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OPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. GROUP B COUNTRIES MADE STATEMENT IN PLENARY MEETING OF UNCTAD TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD, OCTOBER 18, WHICH RESPONDED TO COMMENTS MADE LAST WEEK BY PATEL, CHIEF OF TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY DIVISION, DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH 6 OF REFTEL. GROUP B STATEMENT, CONTAINED IN PARAGRAPH 5 BELOW, WAS DRAFTED BY USDEL AS A STRONG REAFFIRMATION OF POSITION MADE IN OUR STATEMENT LAST WEEK. THE STATEMENT WAS SOFTENED SOMEWHAT, HOWEVER, BY THE SWEDES, GERMANS AND OTHERS, WHO FELT THAT MR. PATEL SHOULD HAVE A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF FLEXIBILITY TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS FOR SUPPORT FROM INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES, AS LONG AS THE SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES BE UNDERTAKEN ARE WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF WORK PROGRAMS APPROVED BY THE UNCTAD INTERGOVERNMENTAL MACHINERY. IT WAS ALSO NOTED THAT PROVISIONS OF CERTAIN RESO-LUTIONS HAVE PROVIDED PATEL WITH AUTHORITY TO ENGAGE IN SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES, MOST NOTABLY PARAGRAPH 3(C) OF RESOLUTION 2(I) OF THE UNCTAD COMMITTEE ON TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY, IN WHICH THE UNCTAD SECRETARY GENERAL WAS REQUESTED TO PROVIDE ADVICE TO LDCS IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TECHNOLOGY CENTERS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE VARIOUS SECTORS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO LDCS.

3. IN WHAT APPEARED TO BE A WELL-ORGANIZED CAMPAIGN OF SUPPORT FOR PATEL, DELEGATES FROM VENEZUELA, INDONESIA, AND NIGERIA ALSO GAVE STATEMENTS IN PLENARY, OCTOBER 18, ON BEHALF OF THEIR RESPECTIVE REGIONAL GROUPS. EACH CITED UNCTAD IV RESOLUTION 87, RESO-LUTION 2(1) OF THE UNCTAD COMMITTEE ON TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY, UNGA RESOLUTION 3507, AND ECOSOC RESO-LUTION 2034 AS GIVING UNCTAD SECRETARIAT FULL AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY CENTERS IN LDCS ORGANIZED ON SECTORAL, AS WELL AS REGIONAL LINES. INDONESIA WAS PARTICULARLY CRITICAL OF GROUP B'S STATEMENT, CLAIMING THAT IT WAS PUTTING POST FACTO RESERVATIONS ON AGREEMENTS PREVIOUSLY MADE.

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4. IN RESPONSE TO THE GROUP B STATEMENT, PATEL PROMISED THAT HE WILL PUT FORWARD IN FULLEST DETAIL HOW HE PLANS TO IMPLEMENT PROVISIONS OF UNGA AND UNCTAD RESOLUTIONS IN COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY. AFTER NOTING THAT THERE WERE NO ADDITIONAL DELEGATIONS WHICH WISHED TO MAKE STATEMENTS, TDB PRESIDENT CLOSED DEBATE ON THIS AGENDA ITEM.

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5. TEXT OF GROUP B STATEMENT DELIVERED IN OCTOBER 18 PLENARY FOLLOWS: BEGIN TEXT. QUOTE: MR. PRESIDENT, IN LIGHT OF THE COMMENTS MADE BY THE SECRETARIAT AND OTHER DELEGATIONS, I THINK IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO PROVIDE SOME ELABORATION AND CLARIFICATION OF THE STATEMENT I MADE LAST WEEK RELATING TO THIS AGENDA ITEM.

AS WE AL KNOW, THE SECRETARIAT IS ENTRUSTED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CARRYING OUT SPECIFIC RESO-LUTIONS AND DECISIONS PASSED BY THE UNCTAD INTER-GOVERNMENTAL MACHINERY AND THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY. IN CARRYING OUT THESE RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS, THE SECRETARIAT'S ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE BASED ON A DETAILED WORK PROGRAM. THIS PROGRAM, TO BE APPROVED BY THE UNCTAD INTERGOVERNMENTAL MACHINERY, SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE SUFFICIENTLY FLEXIBLE TO ENABLE THE SECRETARIAT TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS FROM INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES TO PLAY A SUPPORTING ROLE IN CERTAIN ACTIVITIES. WE DO, HOWEVER, EXPECT THAT THE SECRETARIAT WILL PROVIDE TO THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL MACHINERY A FULL REPORT ON THE PURPOSE AND TERMS OF REFERENCE OF EACH ACTIVITY AND THE NATURE OF THE ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE SECRETARIAT.

THIS PROCEDURE, MR. PRESIDENT, SHOULD NOT BE NEW TO ANYONE, SINCE IT IS CONSISTENT WITH ESTABLISHED UN PRACTICE. IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE, IT IS ALSO FULLY CONSISTENT WITH THE RESOLUTIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN PASSED IN UNCTAD AND THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TECHNOLOGY CENTERS. IN PARAGRAPH 5 OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 3507 (XXX), THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF UNCTAD AND THE EXECUTIVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

DIRECTOR OF UNIDO WERE EACH REQUESTED TO ASSIST IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTERS FOR THE TRANSFER AND DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNOLOGY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AT THE NATIONAL, SUBREGIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVELS. I THINK WE WOULD ALL AGREE THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTERS FOR SPECIFIC INDUSTRIES IN PARTICULAR COUNTRIES MUST BE CAREFULLY COORDINATED TO AVOID OVER-LAPPING OF RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUPLICATION OF EFFORT. IT WAS WITH THIS GOAL IN MIND THAT IN RESOLUTION 3507, THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL IS REQUESTED, IN COL-LABORATION WITH UNCTAD AND UNIDO, TO ESTABLISH AN INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE TO PREPARE A PLAN FOR ESTABLISHING A WORLD-WIDE NETWORK FOR EXCHANGING TECHNOLOGICAL INFORMATION. SINCE NATIONAL, SUBREGIONAL AND REGIONAL TECHNOLOGY CENTERS WILL PLAY A SIGNIFICANT

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ROLE IN THIS NETWORK, IT IS VITALLY IMPORTANT THAT PROPOSALS BY THE SECRETARIAT TO ASSIST IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIFIC CENTERS BY APPROVED BY THE UNCTAD INTERGOVERNMENTAL MACHINERY AND PROPERLY CO-ORDINATED WITH UNIDO, WIPO AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS WITH RESPONSIBILITIES IN THIS FIELD. END TEXT. UNQUOTE.CATTO

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